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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6438

BILL NUMBER: SB 56

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 7, 2007

BILL AMENDED: Feb 6, 2007

SUBJECT: Teacher Licensing.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Lubbers

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill requires the Department of Education to grant an initial standard teacher's license for a specific subject area in middle school or high school to an applicant who has earned a postgraduate degree in the subject area, has experience teaching students, and complies with certain requirements for licensure.

Effective Date: July 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *Summary-* The Department of Education could see an increase in persons applying for an initial standard license as a result of the bill. However, applicants that meet the criteria of the bill would be required to comply with certain licensing requirements for an initial standard license. The requirements would include an oath or affirmation to support the Constitution of the United States, submission of a limited history check, and passage of the PRAXIS series examination. It would also require a person to have at least 1 academic year of teaching experience, which may include teaching experience in a college classroom. The bill could require the need for additional administrative time for the Department to process license applications. The Department's Division of Professional Standards reverted \$190,022 at the close of FY 2006.

Background: Transition to Teaching- Under current law and administrative rule, persons with a baccalaureate degree, with certain GPA or professional restrictions, may enter into the Transition to Teaching program offered at any university within the state that offers an education undergraduate program. Typically, a person in the program must complete 18 or 24 credit hours of class work before applying for a teaching license. The bill would allow a person with a masters or doctorate degree and classroom teaching experience to bypass the credit hour requirement and upon successful completion of the PRAXIS examination apply for

a license.

As of October 2006, the Department had granted teacher licenses to 1,344 individuals through the Transition to Teaching program, since the program's inception.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill could generate a larger pool of applicants for teaching positions in public schools. Schools, as a result, may be able to hire new teachers into specific educational areas that currently are difficult to fill. Hiring new teachers would increase school expenditures. However, schools hiring additional teachers would have to pay them from tuition support allocations under future school funding formulas.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: Schools.

Information Sources: Department of Education, Division of Professional Standards.

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